



Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

July 26, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-41
Time: 11:30 am

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

Wildland Fire Update

Four new fires and one false alarm were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Saturday. The lightning caused **Bull Creek Fire** in the Upper Yukon Zone was first observed by a Fish & Wildlife Service employee using a MODIS map (a satellite generated map showing hotspots). A passing aircraft reported the fire at 600 acres with 70% active perimeter. The fire is in a limited management area and is in monitor status. The **Puzzle Gulch Fire** in the Upper Yukon Zone was spotted by a National Park Service aircraft. Reported at 5 acres, the lightning caused fire is actively burning in spruce and hardwoods in a limited management area. The fire is currently in monitor status. A Delta Area Forester reported the **Mile Post Fire** at .1 acre. Two type-6 engines responded to the unpermitted burn pile, extinguished it and personnel declared it out. The human caused **Tustumena #1 Fire** was reported at .1 acre at the headwaters of the Kasilof River in the Kenai Area. Private boaters knocked the fire down and the Department of Forestry declared the fire out just past noon. One false alarm was reported in the Fairbanks area, but no other information was available.

As of 9 am Sunday, the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center had tallied 449 fires and **1,511,359.5** acres burned this year. 13 fires are staffed and 68 fires are active across Alaska. At this time last year, 331 fires had burned 79,509.3 acres.

The **Wood River 1 Fire**, about 27 miles south of Fairbanks, grew from 45,000 acres to 61,200 acres Saturday. Burning operations around structures were put on hold due to a wind shift to the northeast.

The **Railbelt Complex** grew more than 14,000 acres Saturday to 285,463 total acres Saturday. There are 173 fire personnel on complex, which includes the **Minto Flats South Fire**, the **Lunch Lake Fire**, and the **June Creek Fire**, which is unstaffed. Crews continue to protect structures, allotments, and timber values along the Tanana River, as well as the Arctic Wolf drill rig site. The Chena Hotshots are continuing to build fireline along the southeast corner of the fire to protect structures along the Teklanika River. A load of smokejumpers at Dune Lake are working on structure protection. Fire activity within the Wood River 1 Fire and the Railbelt Complex is expected to continue into next week, and smoke will continue to drift into Fairbanks and interior communities.

The **Little Black One Fire** grew 2,000 acres to 199,000, with 55 personnel staffing the fire for allotment protection, including the Midnight Sun Hotshots and the Venetie #2 Crew.

The **Zitziana Fire** grew about 8,000 acres to 112,534 acres. Crews and smokejumpers will continue cabin protection measures and protective burnouts at Wien, West Twin, Blind Luck Lake, and Wilderness Lakes. Red Flag warnings are in place for the interior of Alaska through Monday evening, with RH values dipping below 30%. Conditions are expected to remain warm and dry into next week. Isolated thunderstorms are expected across a portion of northern interior.

Fire Information Phone Numbers:

For updated information about the **Wood River 1** Fire near Fairbanks, call **907-388-7526**.

For updated information about the **Railbelt Complex fires** which includes the Minto Flats South Fire, Lunch Lake Fire and the June Creek Fire, call the Fire Information Office at **907-378-3843**. The Incident Command Post is located at the Nenana Airport. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: www.inciweb.org.

For updated information about the Shanta Creek fire, contact the Kenai Refuge at **907-262-7021** or the Alaska Division of Forestry at **907-260-4262**. Fire information is posted at www.inciweb.org and <http://kenai.fws.gov>. Email can be addressed to r7shanta@fws.gov.

For updated information about the Chakina Fire, call the Chakina Fire Information Office at **907-529-0511** or the National Park Service Office in Anchorage at **907-644-3414**. Email for the Chakina Fire may be sent to: ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com. Fire information is also posted at www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm

News releases, the daily Situation Report and additional information about these and other fires in Alaska, including maps, are posted or available at:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov>

Red Flag Warnings are in effect through 6 p.m. Monday for strong winds in the Deltana and Tanana Flats, Central Interior, middle Tanana Valley, Upper Tanana Valley and Fortymile country, Denali and the Eastern Alaskan Range. Specific information about the Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at: <http://afshome/predsvcs/weather.php>

Staffed Fires

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Railbelt Complex	NW of Nenana	285,463 acres	Type 3 Incident Mgt. Team
			Chena Hotshots
			Fairbanks #2 Type 2 crew
			Fairbanks #3 Type 2 crew
			Delta #2
			USFS Interagency Type 2
			Upper Tanana #5 Type 2
			Yukon T2IA Crew
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			173 personnel in Complex
Minto Flats South	12 mi west of Nenana	272,497 acres	108 personnel
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana	12,802 acres	132 personnel
June Creek	21 miles NW of Healy	164 acres	
Other Fires			
Wood River 1	27 mi. S of Fairbanks	61,200 acres	12 personnel
Sheenjek	46 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	45,930 acres	20 personnel
			Ft. Yukon #3 Type 2 crew
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	26,500 acres	109 personnel
			Beaver/Stevens Village Type 2 crew
			Allakaket #2 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	199,000 acres	55 personnel
			Venetie #2 Type 2 crew
			Midnight Sun Hotshots
Little Mud	94 mi. E of Galena	22,438.4 acres	4 personnel
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	46,959.8 acres	4 personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	112,534.7 acres	48 personnel
Stevens Creek 1	17 mi. SW of Rampart	27,702.3 acres	3 personnel

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Shanta Creek	Off Funny River Road Kenai	13,221 acres	4 personnel
Broken Snowshoe	3 mi. N of McGrath	25,345 acres	17 personnel
Big Creek	60 mi. SW of Ft. Yukon	5,550 acres	9 personnel
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	31,327 acres	85 personnel Pioneer Peak Hotshots

Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

To learn about protecting yourself from smoke, visit:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

For daily fire information, please visit:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations,
 click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):
 (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
 Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>

- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Mike McMillan (Alaska Fire Service) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).